

given the necessary instructions to the Professor of Physical and Natural Sciences, Frère Constantin, who will have charge of the work.

Mr. Pollock reports that the wind vane and anemometer support has been placed on the brick roof of the observatory of the college and that the exposure is an excellent one. The foundation for the support is of solid mahogany blocks buried in cement to a depth of about ten inches and is so firm that it is expected to withstand the strongest wind. In the observatory are many modern well-kept instruments.

A SEVERE HAILSTORM AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

Mr. C. F. Schneider, Section Director, Grand Rapids, Michigan, reports as follows in regard to the hailstorm of Thursday, May 4, 1905:

Severe thunderstorm. First thunder heard at 1:20 p. m., central standard time; last at 6:45 p. m. Storm came from the southwest. Excessive rain from 1:40 to 2:20 p. m., accompanied from 1:46 to 1:56 p. m. by the most violent and copious fall of hail ever known to have occurred in this vicinity. The hail fell without cessation for fully ten minutes, almost completely covering the ground. The stones were particularly large, most of them being from one to two inches in diameter and some slightly larger than two inches. The storm passed over the central portion of the city, there being but little rain and no hail in the extreme western and eastern sections. Considerable damage was done by the hail, the greenhouses being especial sufferers. Nearly all skylights and many windows in residences and churches within the storm's path were broken. Precipitation to the amount of 0.79 inch fell between 1:40 and 2 p. m., most of it falling between 1:50 and 2 p. m.

The above has been held for some time hoping to obtain data that will enable us to define the length and width of the area covered by hail, but as the only other detailed reports at hand also come from Grand Rapids, we may infer that the hailstorm did not cover any very large area in the central portion of lower Michigan. The following are additional stations in lower Michigan reporting hail on the fourth of May: Grand Haven, light hail between 5:10 and 6:05 p. m.; Hagar, hail and thunder, between 5:30 and 6:15 p. m.; Reed City, hail and thunder, between 1:30 and 2:45 p. m.; Stanton, hailstorm, between 12:30 and 3:00 p. m., did very little damage; Webberville, hard electric storm with hail, between 4:20 and 6:50 p. m.

Heavy thunderstorms were reported from nearly all sections of lower Michigan on the above date, but the falls of hail were apparently confined to small and widely scattered areas.

METEOROLOGICAL COURSE AT WILLIAMS COLLEGE.

In the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for November, 1904, page 517, the course in meteorology at present maintained at Williams College was briefly described. As there stated a lithographed syllabus, covering both text-book and lectures, is closely followed. Chapters VI to VIII, inclusive, of this syllabus were published in the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for April, 1905, page 159, after being somewhat revised by the author, and Chapters I to V are now published so that teachers and lecturers may have the advantage of examining the whole work. The numbers on the right-hand side refer to the sections of Davis's Elementary Meteorology, which is the chief book of reference used by Professor Milham, and which is followed quite generally as a text-book.

A COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN METEOROLOGY AT WILLIAMS COLLEGE.

Chapter I. Introduction—the atmosphere.

II. Heat of the atmosphere.

III. The observation and distribution of atmospheric temperature.

IV. The pressure and circulation of the atmosphere.

- A. The observation and distribution of pressure.
- B. The observation and distribution of the winds.
- C. The convectional theory and its comparison with the observed facts.
- D. A general classification of the winds.

Chapter V. The moisture of the atmosphere.

- A. The water vapor of the atmosphere.
- B. Dew, frost, fog.
- C. Clouds.
- D. Precipitation.

VI. The secondary circulation of the atmosphere.

- A. Tropical cyclones.
- B. Extratropical cyclones.
- C. Thundershowers.
- D. Tornadoes.
- E. Waterspouts, whirlwinds.
- F. Cyclonic and local winds.

VII. Weather bureaus and their work.

VIII. Weather prediction.

IX. Climate.

X. Floods and river stages.

XI. Atmospheric electricity.

XII. Atmospheric optics.

XIII. Atmospheric acoustics.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION—THE ATMOSPHERE.

Section 1.—Introduction.

- (1) The science of meteorology, 1.
- (2) Outline history of meteorology.
- (3) Utility.
- (4) Relation to physics and astronomy, 3.

Section 2.—The atmosphere.

- (1) The atmosphere.
- (2) Composition of the atmosphere, 7.
- (3) Offices and activities of the atmosphere, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.
- (4) Atmosphere of other planets, 4.
- (5) Evolution of the atmosphere, 5.
- (6) Future of the atmosphere, 6.

Section 3.—Pressure and height of the atmosphere.

- (1) Geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, 13.
- (2) Gravity and its effects.
- (3) Dimensions of the geosphere and hydrosphere, 14.
- (4) Pressure of the atmosphere, 15, 16, 17.
- (5) Isobaric surfaces in the atmosphere, 18, 19.
- (6) Height of the atmosphere, 20.

Section 4.—The meteorological elements.

- (1) The meteorological elements.
- (2) Weather and climate.
- (3) Normal values.

Section 5.—The plan of the book.

- (1) The plan of the book, 21.
- (2) Methods of investigation.

CHAPTER II.

HEAT OF THE ATMOSPHERE.

Section 1.—The nature of matter, heat, and radiant energy, 22, 23, 24.

Section 2.—Sources of heat, 21.

Section 3.—Insolation.

- (1) Amount, 25.
- (2) Variation with latitude, time of year and distance from the sun, 26, 27.
- (3) Distribution over the earth, 27.

Section 4.—Interrelation of matter and radiant energy.

- (1) Reflection, 29.
- (2) Transmission, 31.
- (3) Absorption, 31.
- (4) Effects of absorption, 32.
- (5) Actinometry, 33.
- (6) Behavior of the ocean as regards reflection, transmission, and absorption, 37.
- (7) Behavior of the land as regards reflection, transmission, and absorption, 22, 34, 39, 40.
- (8) Behavior of the atmosphere as regards reflection, transmission, and absorption, 35.

Section 5.—Conduction and convection.

- (1) Conduction, 41.
- (2) Conduction of heat between air and land, 42.
- (3) Convection in water, 44.
- (4) Convection in the atmosphere, 45.
- (5) Evidences of convection: mirage, whirlwinds, clouds, 46, 47, 53, 54.
- (6) Difference between convection in liquids and gases, 48.
- (7) Change in temperature in vertical currents, 59.

Section 6.—Temperature gradients.

- (1) Average vertical temperature gradient, range, 36, 38.
- (2) Inversion of temperature, 43.
- (3) Nocturnal stability, 51.
- (4) Diurnal instability, 52.
- (5) Conditions of convection, 50.

CHAPTER III.

THE OBSERVATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF TEMPERATURE.

Section 1.—Instruments for determining temperature.

- (1) Thermometry.
- (2) Thermometers, 73.
- (3) Sling thermometer, 74.
- (4) Ventilated thermometer.
- (5) Thermograph, 75.
- (6) Maximum and minimum thermometers, 76.
- (7) Black bulb thermometer, 77.

Section 2.—Results of observation.

- (1) The observations.
- (2) Normal hourly, daily, monthly, and yearly temperature, 78.
- (3) Diurnal, annual, and irregular variation.
- (4) Other temperature data, 79.

Section 3.—Distribution of temperature over the earth.

- (1) Isothermal charts, 80.
- (2) Isothermal lines for the year, 81, 82, 83, 84.
- (3) Isotherms for January and July, 85.
- (4) Poleward temperature gradient, 86.
- (5) Migration of isotherms, 87, 88.
- (6) Thermal anomalies, 89.
- (7) Annual range of temperature, 90.
- (8) Extremes of temperature.
- (9) Other climatic charts.
- (10) Polar temperatures, 91.

Section 4.—Temperature of land and water.

- (1) Ocean temperature.
- (2) Lake temperature.
- (3) River temperature.
- (4) Temperature below the surface of the land.

CHAPTER IV.

THE PRESSURE AND CIRCULATION OF THE ATMOSPHERE.

Part A. *The observation and distribution of pressure.*

Section 1.—Instruments for determining atmospheric pressure.

- (1) Atmospheric pressure, 98.
- (2) Mercurial barometer: history, construction, corrections, 99, 100, 101.
- (3) Aneroid barometer, 102.
- (4) Barograph, 103.

Section 2.—Results of observation.

- (1) The observations.
- (2) Normal hourly, daily, monthly and yearly pressure.
- (3) Diurnal, annual, and irregular variation, 104, 105.
- (4) Barometric data, 106.

Section 3.—Reduction to sea level.

- (1) Reduction to sea level, 107.
- (2) Barometric determination of altitude, 108.

Section 4.—Barometric charts.

- (1) Construction isobars, 109.
- (2) Isobars for the year, 110.
- (3) Vertical section along a meridian, 111.
- (4) Isobaric surfaces, 112.
- (5) Isobars for January and July, 114.

Part B. *The observation and distribution of the winds.*

Section 1.—Wind direction.

- (1) Wind vane, 115.
- (2) Anemoscope, 117.

Section 2.—Force and velocity of the wind.

- (1) Velocity estimations, 118.
- (2) Anemometers, 119.

Section 3.—Location of observatories.

- (1) Effect of surroundings, 121.
- (2) Hill and mountain observatories, 120.

Section 4.—Results of observation.

- (1) The observations.
- (2) Prevailing wind direction; wind roses, 122.
- (3) Normal hourly, daily, monthly, and yearly velocity.
- (4) Diurnal, annual, and irregular variation.
- (5) Wind data.
- (6) General winds of the world, 123.

Part C. *The convectional theory and its comparison with the observed facts.*

Section 1.—The convectional theory.

- (1) General convectional motion, 92, 96.
- (2) Arrangement of isobaric surfaces in a general convectional circulation, 93.
- (3) Condition of steady motion, 94.
- (4) Barometric gradients, 95, 113.
- (5) Relation of wind direction to pressure gradient, 124.
- (6) Effects of the earth's rotation on wind direction and pressure, 127–136.

Section 2.—Comparison of the consequences of the convectional theory with the observations of pressure and wind, 97, 115, 125, 126.

Part D. *A general classification of the winds.*

Section 1.—Classification of the winds, 137, 138.

Section 2.—Planetary winds.

- (1) Typical system, 141, 142.
- (2) Trade winds, 143.
- (3) Doldrums, 144.
- (4) Horse latitudes, 145.
- (5) Prevailing westerly winds, 148.
- (6) The upper currents, 147.

Section 3.—Terrestrial winds.

- (1) Definition, 149.
- (2) Annual migration of the winds, 150.
- (3) Subequatorial and subtropical wind belts, 151.

Section 4.—Continental winds.

- (1) Definition, 152.
- (2) Monsoons, 153, 154, 155.
- (3) Other land effects, 156, 157, 158, 159.

Section 5.—Land and sea breezes, 160, 161, 162.

Section 6.—Mountain and valley breezes, 163, 164.

Section 7.—Eclipse, landslide, tidal, and volcanic winds.

- (1) Eclipse winds, 140.
- (2) Landslide and avalanche winds, 140.
- (3) Tidal winds, 139.
- (4) Volcanic winds, 140.

Section 8.—Cyclonic storms, 165.

Section 9.—Winds of other planets, 148.

CHAPTER V.

THE MOISTURE OF THE ATMOSPHERE.

Part A. *The water vapor of the atmosphere.*

Section 1.—Evaporation.

- (1) Water vapor, 166.
- (2) Latent heat, 167.
- (3) Amount of evaporation, 173.
- (4) Distribution of the water vapor, 176.

Section 2.—Condition of the atmosphere as regards moisture.

- (1) Capacity of air for water vapor, 168.
- (2) Saturation, 169.
- (3) Humidity, 170.
- (4) Absolute and relative humidity, 171.
- (5) Dew point, 172.

Section 3.—The instruments for measuring the moisture of the atmosphere.

- (1) Hair hygrometer, 174.
- (2) Dew point hygrometer, 174.
- (3) Psychrometer, 175.
- (4) Recording hygrometer.

Section 4.—The results of observation.

- (1) The observations.
- (2) Normal hourly, daily, monthly, and yearly values of absolute and relative humidity.
- (3) Daily and annual variation of absolute humidity, 177.
- (4) Geographical variation of absolute humidity, 177.
- (5) Daily and annual variation of relative humidity, 178.
- (6) Geographical variation of relative humidity, 178.

Section 5.—Effect of water vapor on the general circulation, 179.

Part B. *Dew, frost, fog.*

Section 1.—Dew.

- (1) Condensation, 180.
- (2) Condensation from quiet air on cold surfaces, 181.
- (3) Dew, 183.
- (4) Cooling retarded by latent heat, 182.
- (5) Conditions for the formation of dew, 185.

Section 2.—Frost.

- (1) Frost, 184.
- (2) Prediction of frost, 186.
- (3) Protection from frost, 187.
- (4) Frost observation and frost data.

Section 3.—Fog.

- (1) The nature of fog, 188.
- (2) Fog observation and fog data.

Part C. *Clouds.*

Section 1.—The classification of clouds, 211.

Section 2.—Results of observation.

- (1) The altitude of clouds, 212.
- (2) The direction and velocity of motion, 213.
- (3) Cloudiness, 213.
- (4) Sunshine records, 214.
- (5) Observations of clouds, cloudiness, and sunshine.
- (6) Normal values and data.

Section 3.—The nature of clouds.

- (1) Nuclei of condensation, 189.
- (2) Size and constitution of cloud particles, 190.
- (3) Haze, 209.

Section 4.—The formation of clouds.

- (1) Condensation in winds blowing over cold surfaces, 193, 194.
- (2) Condensation in ascending currents due to convection, 195–201.
- (3) Condensation in forced ascending currents, 202.
- (4) Condensation in atmospheric waves, 203, 204.
- (5) Condensation caused by conduction, 205.
- (6) Condensation caused by diffusion of water vapor, 206.
- (7) Condensation caused by radiation, 207.
- (8) Condensation caused by mixing of air, 208.
- (9) Conditions that favor a clear sky, 210.

Part D. *Precipitation.*

Section 1.—The causes of precipitation.

- (1) Rain, 277, 280.
- (2) Snow, 278.
- (3) Hail, 279.
- (4) Ice storms, 287.
- (5) Artificial rain, 289.
- (6) Cooling produced by precipitation, 281.

Section 2.—Results of observation.

- (1) Instruments for measuring rainfall, 283.
- (2) Instruments for measuring snowfall, 283.
- (3) Observations of precipitation.
- (4) Normal values and precipitation data, 284.

Section 3.—The distribution and effects of precipitation.

- (1) The geographical distribution of precipitation.
- (2) Variation with altitude, 282.
- (3) Relation of rainfall to agriculture, 285.
- (4) Relation of rainfall and forests, 288.
- (5) Effects of snowfall, 286.

Section 4.—The correlation of precipitation and the general circulation of the atmosphere.

- (1) Equatorial rains, 291, 292.
- (2) Trade wind rains, 293.
- (3) Trade wind deserts, 294.
- (4) The horse latitudes, 295.
- (5) The stormy precipitation of the westerly winds, 296.
- (6) Arid regions of the westerly winds, 297.
- (7) Precipitation of high latitudes, 299.
- (8) Migration of the rain belts, 300.
- (9) Subequatorial rains, 301.
- (10) Subtropical rains, 302.
- (11) Effect of precipitation on the general circulation, 303.

CHAPTERS VI–VIII.

[See page 159, Monthly Weather Review, April, 1905.]

Practical laboratory work in observing, computing, charting, and forecasting, as well as special studies, are expected of the students. At the close of the course, if time permits, a few lectures are given on climates, floods, river stages, atmospheric electricity, optical and acoustical phenomena of the atmosphere.

CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED.

It has occurred to the Editor that possibly among Weather Bureau officials, cooperative observers, and other readers of the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW there are some who would occasionally like to send in an article for publication, but refrain because they have not been invited. The majority of the articles that appear in the REVIEW have been voluntary contributions and are of an unofficial character. The Chief of Bureau does not order them written and the Editor is allowed the liberty of publishing whatever will be for the benefit of meteorology. He hopes, therefore, that no one having an interest in the progress of this science will refrain from writing because he has not been invited. None of the articles that appear are to be considered as embodying principles or instructions obligatory upon the service unless, indeed, it is expressly so stated by order of the Chief. Inasmuch, therefore, as each author has the liberty of expressing his own opinion, there is no reason why there should not be a free expression of views on any topic that comes up for discussion. Of course it will sometimes happen that an article may be submitted that can not be published immediately or that may need considerable modification before appearing in print. In such cases the criticisms and advice of the Editor and his assistants will always be at the service of our correspondents.

A CAUTION AS TO HYPOTHESES.

An editor does not always feel free to decline articles offered for publication by distinguished investigators, in fact he usually welcomes new ideas as being the best stimuli to other minds. But he should call the attention of younger students to the danger of piling one hypothesis upon another, building up a work of the imagination that is beautiful to contemplate, but not necessarily in complete harmony with nature. It is much easier for man to describe how the Creator might have done, than to get at the facts of the universe that surrounds us and of which we form a part.

Hypotheses are the essential steps to every investigation. We always try many before we find something that harmonizes through and through with observations and may be temporarily accepted as an apparent law of nature. The investigator often publishes a full statement of his successive trials of hypotheses and their failures as an explanation of the long time required to get at the truth. Other students in the same line of work profit by reading such statements and learn not to be carried away by the enthusiasm inspired by a first apparent happy thought. Some of the most distinguished men in science have been conspicuous for the tenacity with which they adhered to hypotheses that have ultimately been abandoned. Thus, in the struggle to wrest from nature her greatest of all secrets, the structure of a molecule, the theory of Boscovich has had an almost pernicious influence, but may begin to yield good results when we are able to modify it by adding the dynamic considerations that have developed during the past few years. In astronomy the cycles of the ancients reigned supreme for 2000 years until Copernicus, Kepler, and Newton permanently dislodged them. Newton, himself, says "I will not touch hypotheses," and yet he was perpetually discussing them and rejecting them one by one. His theory of universal gravitation was indeed an hypothesis until he was able to demonstrate its validity by utilizing Kepler's rules which were based on observations. In his "Treatise on Optics" he introduced an hypothesis relative to the nature of light whose defense enlisted all the energies of his followers, until the battle was given up two centuries later in favor of the so-called "undulatory theory of light" and even this latter now stands in need of modification.

The mathematician deals with matters of pure hypothesis and logic, but the physicist deals with a material world that he must measure and weigh.

Many illustrations might be cited to show the inadvisability of building up a complex structure of mixed hypotheses and well established facts or laws that is apt to become undermined and eventually to tumble down. The wisest way is to admit only one hypothesis at a time and not build upon it very much until its validity has been established beyond all peradventure. Our contemporary, Nature, has adopted from Wordsworth a line that should serve as a motto for all true lovers of meteorology:

"To the solid ground
Of nature trusts the mind which builds for aye."

Not but that we shall make many mistakes in endeavoring to follow nature. We may often deceive ourselves and sometimes be inclined to say that nature deceives us. We often wish to push ahead to the very end of the whole matter, when nature says "Stop right here, the world is not yet ready for the answer to this question."

CORRIGENDA ET ADDENDA.

Page 292, fig. 64, insert the following legend: "Retardation of rotation in different zones of the sun." Page 293, fig. 68, insert the following legend: "The upper section shows the variation in relative number of sun spots in an 11-year period, and the lower section shows the corresponding changes in the